Amendments to the claims (this listing replaces all prior versions):

1. (currently amended) A machine-based method comprising

receiving historical multi-dimensional data representing multiple source variables to be used as an input to a predictive model of a commercial system, the source variables including nominal variables or ordinal variables,

assigning a status to each source variable, the status comprising the variable being a predictor primary variable or a transformed variable or having transformations applied in a variable definition field;

applying a first set of transformations to the source variables, the first set of transformations being selected to increase predictive power, and

applying a second set of transformations to the data, the second set of transformations being selected based on strength of measurement represented by a variable.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the strength of measurement comprises at least one of nominal and ordinal.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the strength of a measurement is represented in stored metadata associated with the data.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 also including

displaying to a user a representation of a response function of a target variable against untransformed, transformed, and target variables associated with the data.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 also including

persistently storing both the source variables and related transformed versions of the source variables.

6. (currently amended) A machine-based method comprising

receiving historical multi-dimensional data representing multiple source variables having different strengths of measurement to be used as an input to a predictive model of a commercial system, the source variables including nominal variables or ordinal variables,

adjusting unstable values of the variables to reduce inaccurate associations between predictor variables and target variables.

7. (original) The method of claim 6 in which the adjustment of the unstable values comprises Bayesian renormalization.

8. (currently amended) A machine-based method comprising:

in connection with a project in which a user generates a predictive model based on historical data about a system being modeled,

automatically imputing missing values for variables associated with the data and using the imputed missing values in generating the predictive model, the variables including nominal variables or ordinal variables.

9. (original) The method of claim 8 in which the user is enabled to invoke the automatic imputing as part of a user interface feature that displays information about variables for which values are missing.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 9 in which the automatic imputing is invoked based on a variable or type of variable.

11. (original) The method of claim 9 in which the variables for which missing values are imputed may be used in the model or may be transformed for use in the model.

12. (previously presented) The machine-based method of claim 1 also includes typing the source variables based on the strength of measurement represented by each variable.

13. (previously presented) The machine-based method of claim 12 in which typing the source variables comprises pooling the variables.

14. (previously presented) The machine-based method of claim 1 in which the strength of measurement comprises interval.